

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

 Saturday, October 23. 1708.

Old Man. YES, yes, Mr. Review, you bespoke me in your last Review, and you might have spar'd your Labour; I should have been upon you without the Trouble of a formal Challenge.

Review. You take Arms at the first Alarm; what is the Matter?

M. Matter, you shall hear that with both your Ears; why you are turn'd Papist—

Rev. Or Mahometan, or any thing, go on.

M. No, no, nothing but Papist; and you are writing as hard as you can against the War in Italy, for Fear the Pope should be pull'd down.

Rev. For Fear he should not be pull'd down you mean, I suppose?

M. Not at all; I mean what I say, for Fear the Emperor should pull down the Pope; you are for the Confederates refusing to assist him in his new Quarrel with the Pope—Are not you a Papist now? —

Rev. What Reason have you for calling me a Papist for that?

M. Why every Protestant would be for pulling down Popery by Head and Shoulders.

Rev. And I as soon as any Body; but this mad Discourse of yours brings me back to where I ended in my last, viz. That pulling down the Pope, and pulling down Popery, are two Things——I have given my Opinion about the Emperor's Quarrel with the Pope; all the World knows, the Emperor does not quarrel at Popery—it is not his Design to pull down the Pontificate: if

if he had the *Pope* in his Power, Prisoner in *St. Angelo*, he would offer not the least Violence to him, as Head of the Church, or Representative and Successor of *S. Peter*; if he slew him in Battle, he would immediately set up another Ecclesiastical Idol in his Place. But the Quarrel at the *Pope* is, as he is Possessor of several Places, which they call Fiefs and Vassals to the Empire, temporally consider'd, detains these Governments from, and defends them against the Emperor; and in this Capacity it is, the Emperor differs with his Holiness, and what's all this to *Popery*?

M. You are all for Distinctions; but we will not take it that way, pulling down *Pope*, and pulling down *Popery* must be a Kin; it cannot be, but pulling down the Power of the *Pope* will have some Influence upon *Popery*——And let me but see the *Pope* come down, whom we call *Antichrist*, we shall think *Popery* will follow.

Rev. If there was no other *Pope* to be set up in his Room, somewhat might be; but you are all wrong; if this *Pope* were depos'd for his Partiality to *France*, as I think it were well enough if he were; yet he would immediately be succeeded by another, the State of *Popery* would be the same, and the deposing the *Pope* would have no other Signification, as to pulling down *Popery*, than the Death of a *Pope* has, which terminates only in this, viz. The Assembling the Conclave to choose a new *Pope*——Who, when he is erected, is just the same Ecclesiastick old Gentleman as his Predecessor——

M. Well, but I would have 'em pull'd down for all that.

Rev. Why, so would I too, if you please, tho' not in the Way and Manner I foresee it is going about now, viz. To pull all the Princes of *Italy* upon his Head, and let in the *French*, which may make a new, a long and a doubtful War in *Italy*, and at last the Emperor may be disappointed, and not able to carry on his Pretensions; or if he does, must call off his Men from other Parts to pursue that Particular, to the manifest Loss of all the rest of the Confederacy.

M. The *French*! You are so terrified at the *French*, the very *French* themselves

laugh at us for it; I tell you, their Hands are too full elsewhere in *Flanders*; in *Savoy*, on the Frontiers of *Dauphine*; the Taking of *Lisle* will be such a Blow to them, that they cannot steer to relieve his Holiness; the *Germans* I tell will eat him up——

Rev. As *Job* said to his Wife in another Case, *Thou talkest, &c.*——I am granting, his Hands are full——But keep them so then——That is the Thing I am talking of all this while——And I do foresee without reflecting upon the Emperor, or upon his Councils, or his Strength; I say, I foresee that, if this War with the *Pope* goes on you cannot keep the Hands of the *French* full——

The War, they say, is now begun——

And how pray?——The very first Step you hear of is, that 9000 Men are marching from the Duke of *Savoy's* Army——

How will the Duke of *Savoy* be supported, how will he be able to pursue his Advantages against *France*? That Brave Prince, that Faithful Confederate, that has suffer'd the Ruin of his own Country, that was driven from his Capital City, and brought to the last Extremity for the Cause, and that now has an Opportunity of making himself Amends of the *French*, and paying them in their own Coin. How will he be stood by and encourag'd——The *Hessian* Troops are return'd, the *Palatines* gone to *Catalognis*, one Branch of the Imperial Troops marched on the *Neapolitan* Expedition, and never return'd, and now the rest shall be carry'd away to *Ferrara*——Is this the Way to keep the *French* King's Hands full?——Is this a Prince to begin new Wars, that cannot resist the few Troops of the High-Priest, but he must re-call his Forces from one side or other, where they have Work enough already?

We have but one Place in the World besides *Flanders*, where the War had a good Face, and that was in *Savoy*. The Efforts made there, and the Taking *Exilles* and *Fenestrelles* were sensible Wounds to the *French* Affair, and made them very uneasy.——Nay, if I may go farther, I may hope, that these Efforts have saved *Spain*, which was in great Danger of being lost, had not the Troops on that side been employ'd to guard their Frontiers against the Duke

of *Savoy*—If then the Imperial Troops, those few too that are furnish'd, are drawn off, what shall be the Consequence? —

Does not every Ease given to the *French*, wherever it is, increase the Weight upon us in *Flanders*? What a Blow has it been to this Year's War in *Flanders*, that the Imperial Army has been in no Condition to act? What Detachments have the *French* receiv'd from the *Rhine*, which has enabled them to face us again in the *Netherlands*, given them Confidence to cannonade us in our Camp, and now to entrench themselves upon the *Scheld*, and upon the Canals of *Newport* and *Brussels* with design to have intercepted our Convoys. If the Duke of *Savoy* shall be weaken'd, if his Auxiliary Troops shall be taken away, how shall he penetrate *Dauphine*, and push the *French* on that side?

And if he cannot, but must all on the *Defensive* only—what will be the Consequence? But that the *Marschal De Villars* shall detach 20 Battalions and 24 Squadrons to the *Rhine*, to push the *Germans*, and draw all his Forces from *Provence*, where he has been oblig'd to be upon his Guard all the Summer, and send them into *Roussillon*, to give a strong Diversion to Count *Starembergh*, and determine the Fate of *Spain*.

These are the Consequences of your new War with the *Pope* ——— If the Emperor can fight the *Pope* without drawing his Troops from the Confederacy, *Armen*, let him go on; If not, I say, it cannot be the Interest of the Confederates to have that War go on.

MISCELLANEA.

IN my last *Miscellanea*, I observ'd, the Endeavours made use of by Mr. *Rehearsal*, to wash this *Aethiopian*, this *African* Monster, call'd an *abjuring Jacobite*—Clean from the Blackness and Soil of Relapse, Perjury. How he has perform'd it, I leave to the Examination of a Gentleman, that I think, has clench'd him very fast; and when he attempts to answer it—I shall say nothing—but as they do at the Pleading of a Criminal—Send you a good Deliverance.

London. July 25.
1708.

Mr. REVIEW,

I Would beg the Favour of you to tell me, (if you can) what Mr. *Rehearsal* means by his comparing the Gentlemen who lately took the Oaths to qualify themselves against an Election; To those who (he says) took the Oaths to King Charles I. and then condemn'd him for a Tyrant, &c.—If he means to shew us what may be expected from those Gentlemen you hint at, I think the Nation oblig'd to him. But if he means to justify them by producing a Precedent, would they proceed as those whom he esteems the worst of Men did, or if he means to encourage them by shewing what was done

by King Charles to the Covenanting Lord he mentions, I think, the Gentlemen themselves are only oblig'd to him; perhaps a modern Lord's Reward for his Crimes might have been an Example no ways unacceptable to those Gentlemen, were it not as well known to themselves as Mr. R.

I expected to have found those Gentlemen clear'd from the Guilt you charge them with; but far from that, he doth not so much as offer one Argument to convince us that they are sincere. So that I am apt to think, he designs only to persuade the Nation, that we cannot have greater Knaves now than formerly; and since the Covenanters and 41 Others once ruin'd both Church and State, why should it be thought so heinous a Crime, if High-Church should do the same also? Pray explain it otherways if you can.

He tells us, we ought to think these Gentlemen as sincere, as those who took the Oaths to King James II. and upon the Revolution took the Oaths to this Government likewise; but I saury there may be some Difference in the Case. For Persons, who were concern'd in, or well-wishing to the Revolution, may easily be suppos'd to be more sincere, than those who
then

than and since have shewn the greatest Aversion to it. If the latter pretend more Loyalty in Principle, why come they (according to this Notion) in at all? If they pretend Conviction, why don't they abjure those Principles, which led them into the Error?

Tho' Mr. R. thinks it so very uncharitable to suspect the Sincerity of Persons, who for near 20 Years last have been in the French Interest, (as the Non-jurors notoriously have) and now have taken the Oath; yet I believe it no hard Task to give many Instances of Persons who have taken the Oath, but are now as ill-affected to the Revolution as ever; and some Persons who are of the High Church Party, that have got plentiful Fortunes by the Government, cannot forbear Invektives against it. Not to mention these, who when in Discourse are oblig'd to give their Sentiments concerning the Revolution, will answer, Thanks be to GOD, they had no hand in it. I know nothing of the particular Gentlemen you mean, so cannot offend any Person, unless it be those whose Consciences accuse them of the Guilt, and of such I am not afraid.

Yours,

N^o 2.

If as by this Letter, Mr. Rebearfal has taken these Steps to clear the People we are speaking of, upon my Word they are little beholden to him — I shall not enter into Examination of what the People were, that first swore to King Charles 1. and then cut off his Head, or swore to King James, and then depos'd; but we have it from Mr. Rebearfal in several of his Papers, that they were the worst of Men, 'tis plain what Mr. Rebearfal thinks them. Now, if all he has to say to defend these Members of Filthhood and Children of Treachery, is to say, they are as honest as Men, that Mr. Rebearfal has already branded for great Rogues — They should con him but little Thanks for his Vindication — And so much for the first Part of it.

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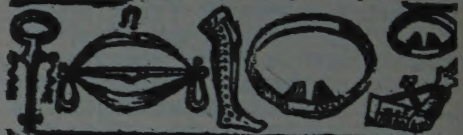
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